

Written Testimony of Glyn R. Hilbun, M.D.
Before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee

June 6, 2006

Good afternoon Chairman Whitfield, and members of the Committee. My name is Glyn R. Hilbun, M.D. I have been a practicing physician for the past forty years on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Before I begin my formal remarks, I would like to make a brief comment regarding the recent disaster on the Gulf Coast.

As a resident of Jackson County, Mississippi, who sustained major property damages from Hurricane Katrina, I want to thank the Members of the Energy and Commerce Committee for their efforts on behalf of everyone from the Gulf Coast. We have begun the long process of rebuilding and with the continued support of Congress, we will build back better than before.

Now I would like to make a brief statement regarding the matter before this Committee. Approximately two years ago, I was hired by N & M Incorporated to do physical examinations on patients that were suspected of testing positive for silicosis. I traveled to Columbus, Mississippi to a location designated by the testing company where I spent approximately five days performing the examinations. I performed a short physical examination and signed the forms that were provided by the company. I never gave an opinion or rendered a

diagnosis on any of the patients. I saw no pulmonary function studies or x-ray reports. I only performed a physical examination and signed each form, and immediately returned to my private practice of general surgery. I was compensated five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per day plus lodging.

Approximately one month later, I was in surgery when my office manager called stating that someone from N & M Incorporated wanted the "typed" physical exams that I had previously performed to be resigned. My response was for my office manager to stamp them as I had previously signed them. I assumed that they had retyped the originals. To my dismay, someone had typed in three sentences without my knowledge which indicated that I had made the diagnosis of silicosis. This was first brought to my attention after being asked to give a deposition in this matter. The original forms that I had signed had no such wording and I testified to this in my deposition.

In conclusion, I want to state to this Committee that in my forty years of practice, I have never made a diagnosis of silicosis, never tested anybody for silicosis, and have never owned or had access to any equipment used in testing of silicosis.

Thank you and I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.